

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2139
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON OIL RICH ARABS

REF DAMASCUS 1299,

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXERPTS FROM EDITORIAL IN EGYPTIAN GAZETTE
FEB 25 WHICH ALSO APPEARED IN FRENCH LANGUAGE JOURNAL
D'EGYPTE. IN EMBASSY OPINION, IT IS ACCURATE REPRESENTATION
OF VIEWS MOST HIGHLY PLACED EGYPTIANS SHARE OF THEIR WEALTHY
ARAB BROTHERS.

2. BEGIN UNCLAS: QUOTE: ECONOMIC TROUGH AND ALL, THE ARMS
BUDGET MUST BE KEPT UP, THE OIL RICH ARABS HAVE BEEN SLACKING
IN THIS FIELD AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC. IT SURPRISES US
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SOMEWHAT THAT LESS THAN FOUR YEARS AFTER THE EMBARGO OUR
GULF SISTERS AND BROTHERS HAVE FORGOTTEN THE MOST LUCRATIVE
OF ALL THEIR INVESTMENTS. THE MAGNANIMOUS \$4,000 MILLION IN-
VESTMENT IN THE EGYPTIAN \$40,000 MILLION WAR EFFORT WAS AFTER
ALL, WHAT BROUGHT IN ALL THE POST 73 PROFITS, WASN'T IT?
IT COULD BE, OF COURSE, THAT MAGNANIMITY HAS ITS LIMITS AS
LONG AS ISRAEL HASN'S - YET - OCCUPIED A SINGLE SQUARE

INCH OF OPEC TERRITORY. OR THAT THE GULF STATES ARE AWAITING THE FULL RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT BEFORE FORWARDING THE NEXT STIPEND -- AS SOON AS POST 73 OIL PRESSURE DIPLOMACY RUNS OUT EGYPT CAN DO ANOTHER WAR AND WE CAN START AGAIN. OR IT COULD BE THAT OPEC'S ARABS BELIEVE THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD DRUM UP THE REMAINING \$36,000 MILLION OF EGYPT'S WAR COSTS SINCE THE FOUR WARS SINCE 1948 WERE FOUGHT MAINLY IN THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEREST. ON THE OTHER HAND IT COULD BE THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND HER GULF PARTNERS NEVER APPROVED OF EGYPT'S BUYING ARMS FROM THE GODLESS RUSSIANS AND WOULD RATHER HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH REPAYMENT OF THE \$6,000 MILLION ODD MILITARY DEBT TO THE SOVIET UNION. FAR BETTER THAT THE EGYPTIANS PAY OFF THEIR ILL-ACQUIRED DEBT IN GOODS THE OIL-RICH ARABS WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN BUYING. EGYPTIAN COTTON GOODS MAY BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE RUSSIAN BUT OUR MORE SOPHISTICATED ARAB SISTERS AND BROTHERS PREFER THE PRODUCTS OF EUROPEAN HAUTE COUTURE. WE DO BELIEVE WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO QUESTION THE ETHICS OF THE OIL STATES' POLITICAL PRACTICE, AT LEAST IN REGARD TO THOSE WHOME THEY PROFESS TO SUPPORT. IF THEY DON'T IMPORT FROM EGYPT TO ANY EXTENT- APART FROM LABOR, THAT IS-INVEST IN EGYPT, SUPPORT HER WAR EFFORT, OR EVEN SUFFICIENTLY SUPPORT HER PEACE EFFORT, AS WITNESSED BY STATEMENTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA LAST WEEK THAT OIL PRICE RESTRAINT WOULD NOT IMPLY ANY POLITICAL PRESSURE IN THE INTEREST OF THE ARAB CAUSE, THEN EXACTLY WHAT DO THEY MREAN BY BROTHERLY RELATIONS? ALL OUR POTENTIAL AT YOUR DISPOSAL? AND WHAT, IN THEIR TERMS, IS THE ARAB CAUSE. END QUOTE
END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: THIS EDITORIAL APPEARED IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS ONLY, ALTHOUGH ARABIC PRESS ECHOED SAME THEMES DURING PAST MONTH. WE ARE STRUCK BY INCREASING FREQUENCY OF SUCH CRITICISM HERE AND APPARENTLY IN SYRIA (REFTEL). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA, AND POSSIBLY JORDAN AS WELL, HAVE DECIDED TO COORDINATE THEIR CRITICISM OF RICH ARAB BROTHERS.
EILTS

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